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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

Reference: Docket RM2017-3

January 31, 2020

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Washington National Cathedral, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. These increases – which are estimated to reach seven percent per year – will have a negative impact on the Cathedral's ability to carry out its mission and will not reform the Postal Service.

The Cathedral is a house of prayer for all people, conceived by our founders to serve as a great church for national purposes. As the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, we strive to serve God and our neighbors as agents of reconciliation, a trusted voice of moral leadership and a sacred space where the country gathers during moments of national significance.

In 2019, we welcomed hundreds of thousands through our doors, including visitors and students from across our nation and around the world:

- 162,000 people worshiped with us
- 225,000 sightseers experience the beauty of Gothic architecture
- 1,500 worship services
- 72,000+ people attended concerts and events
- 2,000 neighbors in need helped through Thanksgiving, Advent and Easter gifts, including meals for furloughed federal workers
- 14,25 tons of food delivered to needy families for Thanksgiving
- 100% of participants in our Cathedral Scholars program graduated high school and successfully matriculated into a postsecondary, four-year degree-granting institution
- 1,666 hours of community service completed Cathedral Scholars

The Cathedral is not able to increase our budget to keep pace with postage increases totaling 40% over the next five years. Any expense, such as postage, that exceeds our means will result in necessary reductions in our use of mail. Such a reduction will lead to significantly less revenue, severely limiting our reach and reducing the amount our organization can spend on our mission and ministry. This will have a dramatic impact on our ability to provide life-changing ministry and a safe place of welcome for all people.

Washington National Cathedral urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider its proposal.

Regards,

Vanessa B. Andrews
Chief Development Officer